

Claims 22-28 were rejected as being obvious over Homma '713 in view of Homma '107. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

On page 3, last line, to page 4, line 2, of the Action, the Examiner acknowledges that "Homma (5100713) fails to teach a desired number of crossing points, a cover factor, twist free warp and weft yarns of specific width, or a flatness." The Examiner attempts to fill this gap in Homma '713 by applying Homma '107 and alleging, for example, that it "teaches a cover factor of 95-100% (col. 4, line 7)." See page 4, line 9, of the Action.

Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner's understanding of Homma '107 is incorrect. Homma '107 discloses a cover factor of "in a range of 95 to 100%" of a woven fabric, *not* a prepreg made from the woven fabric of Homma '107. Therefore, Homma '713 and Homma '107 would not have taught or suggested the limitation a "cloth prepreg ... having ... a cover factor of at least 90%" *as a whole*.

With respect to the obviousness rejections, the law requires that the prior art would have rendered obvious the invention *as a whole* to support an obviousness rejection. As MPEP 2143 states, "the prior art references (or references when combined) must teach or suggest *all* the claim limitations." [Emphasis added.] Given the failure of the cited references to disclose the claimed cover factor of a *prepreg*, one of ordinary skill would not have been taught or suggested by them to make the invention *as a whole*.

In fact, even if a person of ordinary skill in this art would have used the woven fabric of Homma '107 to prepare a prepreg, one would not have arrived at a prepreg having a cover factor of at least 90%, as shown in the attached Declaration of Mr. Nishimura. Under identical preparation conditions, a prepreg of this invention and a prepreg from the woven fabric of Homma '107 were prepared and evaluated. See Declaration of Mr. Nishimura. It was found that the prepreg from the woven fabric of Homma '107 has a cover factor of 75% while the prepreg of this invention has a cover factor of 97%. See Declaration of Mr. Nishimura. This clearly shows that a prepreg from the woven fabric of Homma '107 is *not* "anticipating applicant's

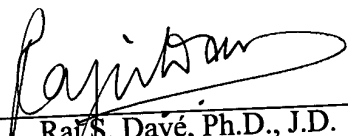
cover factor," unlike what the Examiner states on page 4, lines 11 and 12, of the Action. Also, the prepreg of this invention shows *unexpected results* as compared to a prepreg from the woven fabric of Homma '107.

In light of the above, a Notice of Allowance is kindly solicited.

In the event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent & Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952, referencing 360842003400. However, the Assistant Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,

By: 
Raj S. Davé, Ph.D., J.D.
Registration No. 42,465

Morrison & Foerster LLP
2000 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006-1888
Telephone: (202) 887-8798
Facsimile: (202) 887-0763